

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Subregion: SOUTH CENTRAL **County:** AMADOR, CALAVERAS, TUOLUMNE

Applicant: MOTHERLODE LAND TRUST

Project Title: CENTRAL SIERRA RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Reference Number: SNC 070280

PROJECT SCOPE

The Motherlode Land Trust will conduct a multi-county resource assessment to:

- Identify areas with strong conservation and resource values in eastern Amador County and all of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties;
- Assess resource values in partnership with relevant local interests and landowners;
- Focus on working landscapes, river and creek corridors, wilderness areas, natural resource values such as threatened or endangered species, mitigation corridors, and oak woodlands;
- Conduct assessment to include agricultural and recreational values, in addition to natural resource values;
- Utilize the data acquired to guide the Trust's priorities for acquisition projects in the future; and
- Make the information compiled available as a resource to the Counties and other organizations with interest.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Develop GIS resources and reproduce for staff use	April 2008 - September 2008
Preliminary identification of key areas to be assessed	April 2008 - September 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Conduct preliminary meetings with interested landowners	October 2008 – December 2008
Begin on the ground assessment of targeted properties	January 2009 – March 2009
Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Complete on-the-ground assessments of targeted properties	April 2009 – August 2009
Develop and produce informational resources for distribution	August 2009 – September 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	October 2009

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Staff salary	\$10,000
GIS Development and Printing	\$28,000
Informational Resource Development and Printing	\$ 3,000
Meeting Development and Expenses	\$ 2,500
Administrative	\$ 4,350
GRAND TOTAL	\$47,850

Letters of Support:

- Wallace Citizens Serving Residents
- Amador Resource Conservation District
- Foothill Collaborative for Sustainability
- Natural Resource Conservation Service - Jackson, CA
- Sierra Foothills Conservancy
- Calaveras Planning Coalition
- Citizens for San Andreas

Recommendation:

Recommend for funding at the requested amount of \$47,850.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: (SNC 070280 Central Sierra Resource Mapping) Founded in 1991, the mission of the Mother Lode Land Trust (MLLT; formerly the Amador Land Trust) is to help protect agricultural and rangelands, historic and scenic sites, and natural habitats. MLLT holds seventeen conservation easements in Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, and Alpine counties, protecting over 2,600 acres. MLLT currently has eight board members with expertise in water resources, education, forestry, farming and ranching, and native plants.

MLLT is applying for a Category 2 Special Opportunity Grant to identify areas with strong conservation values in eastern Amador County (western Amador County has already been mapped), and all of Calaveras and Tuolumne counties--in partnership and consultation with other, local organizations. The mapping will pay particular attention to working landscapes, river (Mokelumne, Cosumnes, Stanislaus, etc.) and creek (Sutter, Dry, Calaveritas, Calaveras, etc.) corridors, wilderness areas and WSAs, natural resource values such as threatened and endangered species, migration corridors, and oak woodlands.

Specifically, MLLT will use funds from a one-year, \$47,850 grant to conduct resource mapping in eastern Amador County, and all of Calaveras and Tuolumne counties to identify areas with high natural (water, plants, animals, etc.), agricultural, and recreational values. Funds would also be used to conduct a series of outreach meetings in each of the counties. MLLT would conduct extensive mapping of the resource values in the three counties, identify areas with the highest concentration of resource values, and prioritize conservation efforts. MLLT would partner with a number of organizations in the three counties to identify their highest resource values for inclusion in the mapping. The maps--once completed--will assist the land trust, as well as water districts, recreation districts, watershed and fire safe councils, local governments, and landowners with their long-term land use planning efforts. Following the development of the maps, two series of outreach meetings will be held. The first series will have a broad audience with a focus of simply educating the general public about conservation needs in the three counties. The second series will be small groups of select landowners with whom MLLT would like to work. By partnering with other agencies and organizations MLLT plans to find areas for collaboration amongst the various organizations.

This grant will support many Sierra Nevada Conservancy program areas by clearly identifying lands for conservation in the three counties and developing a plan for protecting these working landscapes, waterways, and other physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources. It should also be noted that comprehensive mapping has never been conducted in the central Sierra. The long-term

benefits of the compilation of this data is immense and will be experienced locally for years to come.